

Major Work Stoppages

The term "work stoppages" includes worker-initiated strikes, as well as lockouts by employers. A strike is defined as a temporary stoppage of work by a group of workers (not necessarily members of a union) to express a grievance or enforce a demand. A lockout is a temporary withholding or denial of employment during a labor dispute to enforce terms of employment upon a group of employees. Because of the complexity of disputes, the Bureau does not attempt to distinguish between strikes and lockouts in its statistics; both are included in the term "work stoppage" and are used interchangeably. Major work stoppages are those involving 1,000 workers or more and lasting a full shift or longer.

Data for the number of "workers involved" and "days of idleness" include all workers made idle for one shift or

longer in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. They do not account for secondary idleness as a result of material or service shortages.

Data for days idle as a "percent of estimated working time" shows idleness as a percent of available working time. Available working time is computed by multiplying the total employed during the reference period by the number of days typically worked by most employees during that period.

Additional information

For more detailed data, contact the Division of Compensation Data Analysis and Planning, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, DC 20212-001. Telephone: (202) 606-6275.

Table D-1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, 1947-96¹

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved		Days idle	
	Beginning in period	In effect during period	Beginning in period (thousands)	In effect during period (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time ²
1947	270	-	1,629	-	25,720	(³)
1948	245	-	1,435	-	26,127	0.22
1949	262	-	2,537	-	43,420	.38
1950	424	-	1,698	-	30,390	.26
1951	415	-	1,462	-	15,070	.12
1952	470	-	2,746	-	48,820	.38
1953	437	-	1,623	-	18,130	.14
1954	265	-	1,075	-	16,630	.13
1955	363	-	2,055	-	21,180	.16
1956	287	-	1,370	-	26,840	.20
1957	279	-	887	-	10,340	.07
1958	332	-	1,587	-	17,900	.13
1959	245	-	1,381	-	60,850	.43
1960	222	-	896	-	13,260	.09
1961	195	-	1,031	-	10,140	.07
1962	211	-	793	-	11,760	.08
1963	181	-	512	-	10,020	.07
1964	246	-	1,183	-	16,220	.11
1965	268	-	999	-	15,140	.10
1966	321	-	1,300	-	16,000	.10
1967	381	-	2,192	-	31,320	.18
1968	392	-	1,855	-	35,367	.20
1969	412	-	1,576	-	29,397	.16
1970	381	-	2,468	-	52,761	.29
1971	298	-	2,516	-	35,538	.19
1972	250	-	975	-	16,764	.09
1973	317	-	1,400	-	16,260	.08
1974	424	-	1,796	-	31,809	.16
1975	235	-	965	-	17,563	.09
1976	231	-	1,519	-	23,962	.12
1977	298	-	1,212	-	21,258	.10
1978	219	-	1,006	-	23,774	.11
1979	235	-	1,021	-	20,409	.09
1980	187	-	795	-	20,844	.09
1981	145	-	729	-	16,908	.07
1982	96	-	656	-	9,061	.04
1983	81	-	909	-	17,461	.08
1984	62	-	376	-	8,499	.04
1985	54	-	324	-	7,079	.03
1986	69	-	533	-	11,861	.05
1987	46	-	174	-	4,481	.02
1988	40	-	118	-	4,381	.02
1989	51	-	452	-	16,996	.07
1990	44	-	185	-	5,926	.02
1991	40	-	392	-	4,584	.02
1992	35	-	364	-	3,989	.01
1993	35	-	182	-	3,981	.01
1994	45	-	322	-	5,021	.02
1995	35	-	192	-	5,771	.02
1995 Through April	9	12	94.3	109.5	1,592.8	.02
1996 ⁴ Through April	14	15	196.1	198.6	2,354.0	.02

¹ The numbers of stoppages and workers relate to stoppages that began in the year. Days of idleness include all stoppages in effect. Workers are counted more than once if they are involved in more than one stoppage during the year.

² Agricultural and government employees are included in the total employed

and total working time; private households, forestry, and fishery employees are excluded.

³ Data not available.

p = preliminary.

Table D-2. Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, February 1996^p

Organizations involved and location ¹	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days of idleness during February
Detroit Free Press and Detroit News Detroit, MI Metropolitan Council of Newspaper Unions and Teamsters	7/13/95		2,500	50,000
Commercial Building Realty Advisory Board New York, NY Service Employees	1/4/96	2/4/96	30,000	60,000
Trailmobile Charleston, IL Paperworkers	1/21/96		1,100	22,000
San Diego public schools San Diego Teachers Association San Diego, CA	2/1/96	2/8/96	5,000	30,000
Yale University (clerical) New Haven, CT Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees	2/7/96		2,600	41,600
Litton Industries, Ingalls Shipbuilding Division Pascagoula, MS Machinists	2/14/96	2/15/96	7,600	14,200
Oakland public schools Oakland, CA Oakland Education Association (Ind.)	2/15/96		3,500	35,000
Chrysler Corp. Warren, MI Automobile Workers	2/17/95	2/19/95	1,800	1,800
Stoppages beginning in February: 5 Stoppages in effect in February: 8			20,500 54,100	254,600

¹ Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as independent (Ind.).

² The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest hundred.
p = preliminary.

Table D-3. Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, March 1996^a

Organizations involved and location ¹	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days of idleness during March
Detroit Free Press and Detroit News Detroit, MI Metropolitan Council of Newspaper Unions and Teamsters	7/13/95		2,500	52,500
Trailmobile Charleston, IL Paperworkers	1/21/96		1,100	23,100
Yale University (clerical) New Haven, CT Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees	2/7/96	3/6/96	2,600	10,400
Oakland public schools Oakland, CA Oakland Education Association (Ind.)	2/15/96	3/20/96	3,500	49,000
Nursing home industry West Virginia Service Employees	3/4/96	3/4/96	1,000	1,000
General Motors Dayton, OH Automobile Workers	3/8/96	3/22/96	136,000 ^a	1,260,000 ^a
Yale University (food service and custodial) Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees New Haven, CT	3/27/96		1,100	3,300
Stoppages beginning in March: 3			138,100	
Stoppages in effect in March: 7			147,800	1,350,300

¹ Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as independent (Ind.).

² The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest hundred.

^a Excludes workers idled in Canada and Mexico.
p = preliminary.

Table D-4. Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, April 1996^p

Organizations involved and location ¹	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days of idleness during April
Detroit Free Press and Detroit News Detroit, MI Metropolitan Council of Newspaper Unions and Teamsters	7/13/95		2,500	55,000
Trailmobile Charleston, IL Paperworkers	1/21/96		1,100	24,200
Yale University (food service and custodial) New Haven, CT Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees	3/27/96	4/23/96	1,100	18,700
General Motors Lordstown, OH Automobile Workers	4/15/95	4/16/96	1,500	3,000
Crown Cork and Seal Co. Interstate Machinists	4/19/96		1,000	8,000
United Technologies, Carrier Corp. Indianapolis, IN Steelworkers	4/22/96	4/29/96	1,000	6,000
Stoppages beginning in April: 3			3,500	
Stoppages in effect in April: 6			8,200	114,900

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² The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest hundred.
p = preliminary.